

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 IO-14 ISO-00 DHA-02 VOE-00 SCA-01

INSE-00 CIAE-00 EUR-12 OMB-01 SP-02 AID-05 /049 W

-----022454 011344Z /45

R 010754Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1846

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS MANILA 10180

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: INDOCHINESE BOAT CASES

REF: (A) MANILA 8163 (B) MANILA 4427 (C) MANILA 7600

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING MESSAGE SUMMARIZES MOVEMENT OF BOAT CASE REFUGEES WHO ARRIVED IN 1976 AND REPORTS DETAILS OF 1977 ARRIVALS WHICH INDICATE FUTURE ONWARD MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES UNDER CURRENT CE PROGRAM WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF CHANGING CHARACTER OF REFUGEES. END SUMMARY.

2. FIFTEEN VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WERE MOVED TO HONG KONG ON 22 JUNE. WITH THAT MOVEMENT 548 PERSONS OUT OF TOTAL 605 PERSONS (25 BOATS) WHICH ARRIVED IN 1976 HAVE BEEN MOVED OR CAN EXPECT MOVEMENT SHORTLY. FIFTY-SEVEN (57) OF THE 1976 REFUGEES WITH VARIOUS PROBLEMS REMAIN BEHIND. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT 12 REFUGEES FROM 1975 HAVE NOT BEEN RESETTLED. (SEE REF "A".)

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3. OF 605 PERSONS WHO ARRIVED IN PHILIPPINES IN 1976, 367 PERSONS OR 60 PERCENT OF TOAL NUMBER WERE ACCEPTED FOR MOVEMENT TO THE U.S. ACCORDING TO INFO RECEIVED FROM UNHCR 83 REFUGEES HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY CANADA, 45 BY FRANCE, AND 27 BY OTHER THIRD COUNTREIS.

4. AS OF 28 JUN 1977, 10 BOATS CARRYING 265 REFUGEES HAVE

ARRIVED IN THE PHILIPPINES IN 1977. THIS COMPARES WITH 9 BOATS WITH 209 PERSONS WHO ARRIVED IN A COMPARABLE PERIOD IN 1976.

5. UNDER PRESENT PROCEDURES UNHCR REP SURVEYS INCOMING REFUGEE BOATS AND REFERS TO EMBASSY ONLY THOSE REFUGEES WHO APPEAR TO MEET CE CRITERIA. THUS FAR THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REFERRALS FOR 83 REFUGEES WHO ARRIVED IN 1977. THIS REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN THOSE POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE FOR CE PROGRAM. DECREASE IS DUE LARGELY TO CHANGE IN KIND OF REFUGEE NOW ARRIVING IN PHILIPPINES. UP TO 70 PERCENT OF RECENT ARRIVALS HAVE BEEN FISHERMEN WITH FAR FEWER MILITARY OFFICIALS, PROFESSIONALS AND BUSINESSMEN THAN 1976 BOATS. NEW REFUGEE IS MUCH LESS LIKELY TO HAVE CAT I QUALIFYING RELATIVE AND RARELY HAS CLAIM TO CAT II OR III ELIGIBILITY.

6. CANADA CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO ACCEPT MORE REFUGEES THAN THEY DID IN 1977. FRANCE WILL PROBABLY NOT TAKE AS MANY AS IT DID IN 1976. EXCEPT FOR AUSTRALIA WHICH MAY HAVE AN INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROGRAM OF SIGNIFICANCE, OTHER THIRD COUNTRIES ARE NOT LIKELY TO PLAY A MEANINGFUL ROLE. IT APPEARS THAT AS MANY AS 50 PERCENT OF REFUGEES ARRIVING IN 1977 MAY HAVE NO SOLUTION.

7. AS REPORTED IN REF "B" AND "C" GOP POLICY IN ACCEPTING REFUGEES HAS BEEN REMARKABLY LIBERAL. THIS POLICY IS BASED LARGELY ON FAITH THAT U.S., CANADA, FRANCE AND OTHER COUNTRIES WORKING WITH UNHCR WILL FIND SOLUTIONS FOR REFUGEES AND MOVE UNCLASSIFIED

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THEM FROM PHILIPPINES.

8. REFUGEES IN JOSE FABELLA CENTER NOW TOTAL 398. AN ADDITIONAL 129 REFUGEES ARE STILL AWAITING PLACEMENT AT THE CENTER. IF VIETNAMESE REFUGEE BOATS CONTINUE TO ARRIVE AT PRESENT RATE GOP WILL SOON NOTICE THAT A PROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF REFUGEES ARE NOT MOVING OUT. REALIZATION THAT MANY REFUGEES MAY NOT HAVE RESETTLEMENT SOLUTIONS IS LIKELY TO POSE SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR GOP AND MAY HAVE UNDESIRABLE EFFECT ON PRESENT LIBERAL POLICY.

9. AN INCREASE IN CE NUMBERS AVAILABLE TO BOAT CASES HERE WOULD OF COURSE AID OUR EFFORTS TO KEEP REFUGEES MOVING. IF RECENT TRENDS CONTINUE (FISHERMEN AND SIMILAR TYPES MAKE UP BULK OF REFUGEES) EXPANSION OR REDEFINITION OF CURRENT ELIGIBILITY CATEGORIES MAY ALSO BE NECESSARY TO INSURE ONWARD MOVEMENT OF BOAT CASES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770798/aaaadhmi.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9ce47f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MANILA 8163, 77 MANILA 4427, 77 MANILA 7600
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1985473
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDOCHINESE BOAT CASES
TAGS: SREF, VM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9ce47f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009